

From: Clint Lord
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/10/01 6:03pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I would like to comment on the MS/DOJ settlement. Below are my suggestions for changes that should be made to the settlement:

1. MS should be required to publish the entire Windows API. This would include every possible call to the OS. Including API calls that are currently only shared between MS OS division and MS Application division.
2. If MS "bundles" any software with the OS (ie. Internet Explorer) they would be required to publish its entire API as well.

When I say publish, I mean available to anyone that wants it - no stipulations... it would be publicly published.

This would solve several problems:

1. MS doesn't have to show one line of source code to the world.
2. No more unfair advantage to MS Application division.
3. This wouldn't allow MS to "turn off" an API option just to shut down a competitor. They would have to publish the change to the API some time before it was released.
4. This would offer the opportunity for competitors to actually create a competing OS that is 100% compatible with Windows apps. Talk about leveling the playing field.

I believe this is a very simple and yet very effective method to level the playing field with MS and the rest of the software development world. They have been found guilty of monopolistic behavior and this would help their competitors compete as well as dissuade MS from future monopolistic behavior.

Thank you for taking the time to review my comments.

Clint Lord
CEO/Senior Programmer Analyst
The Voodoo Cube, Inc.

CC: Russell May